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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 MCT-01

SY-05 DODE-00 PM-04 SS-15 NSC-05 EB-07 L-03 H-02

SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /062 W

129557 ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

O 192017Z OCT 76
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7601

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

() Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s): B-1

Declassify: () In Part () In Full

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade

Declassify on 18/01 Reason 25

BUENOS AIRES 6879

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: ASEC, PINS, SHUM, AR, ARA
SUBJECT: EXPLOITATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE BY MONTONEROS

1. 1 1 AT A MEETING HELD IN ROSARIO IN SEPT. 1976 THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE WAS DISCUSSED AMONG MONTONERO LEADERS, AT LEAST TWO OF WHOM WERE OFFICIALS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL. THESE LEADERS CONSIDERED THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE, PARTICULARLY WITHIN THE US, AS WORKING TO THEIR ADVANTAGE. CONSEQUENTLY, IN THE INTEREST OF MAINTAINING THIS ADVANTAGE, THESE MONTONERO LEADERS DECIDED THAT FOR THE PRESENT THEY WOULD NOT DIRECT TERRORISM ACTIONS AGAINST FOREIGN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS OR THEIR PERSONNEL IN ARGENTINA AS SUCH ACTIONS WOULD TEND TO WEAKEN THE MONTONERO POSITION IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS CONTEXT. THE MONTONEROS WILL CONTINUE TO KIDNAP AND KILL FOREIGN AND ARGENTINE BUSINESS EXECUTIVES AS WELL AS MEMBERS OF THE ARGENTINE SECURITY SERVICES. THE MONTONERO LEADERS EXPLAINED THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE IS GENERATING SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT FOR THE MONTONEROS AND LEFTISTS GROUPS IN ARGENTINA AND THE ATTACKS BEING MADE AGAINST THE ARGENTINE GOVT ARE ULTIMATELY TO THE BENEFIT OF THE ARGENTINE LEFTIST RADICAL SECTOR.

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2. RSO COMMENT: THIS IS THE FIRST INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THE SECURITY OFFICE WHICH WOULD INDICATE IN EFFECT THAT TERRORIST ELEMENTS IN ARGENTINA ARE WITHHOLDING ACTIONS AGAINST US DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL BECAUSE LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS WITHIN THE US ARE APPARENTLY ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE TERRORIST CAUSE. SHOULD THE TERRORIST MOVEMENT NOT BE ABLE TO USE THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE TO ITS ADVANTAGE, THE TARGET PROFILE OF THE US DIPLOMATIC MISSION WOULD BE EXTENSIVELY ELEVATED.

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